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dehiscence of its capsule. The capsule of the former dehisces septicidally, while that of the latter opens by a little operculum and then slits septifragally but in a rather irregular way.

VII. Decodon Gmel.

19. D. verticillatus Ell. 1821: no. 315 of Koehn. Mon. l. c. vol. iii. p. 342. (*Lythrum verticillatum* L. 1753: *Anonymos aquatica* Walter, 1788: *Decodon aquaticus* Gmelin. 1791: *Nesœa verticillata* HBK. 1823.) From Canada and Wisconsin to Florida and Louisiana. *Decodon* could possibly be united with *Heimia* (but not with *Nesœa*), the capsule dehiscing in the same manner. Yet not only the different color of the petals and the different disposition of the flowers, but also the near relationship of *Decodon* and *Grislea* and *Adenaria* have decided me in keeping them separate. The relationship between *Decodon* and *Grislea secunda* Lœfl. is even greater than that between the former and *Heimia*.

Explanation of Plate VI.--In all the figures *a* is the ovary stalk; *b*, the insertion of the calyx; *c*, the base of the ovary; *d*, the hypogynous fleshy ring; *e*, capsule valves; A, the calyx; B, the ovary; C, the lower part of the ovary.

Fig. 1. *L. lineare*, short-styled: Fig. 2. *L. album*, long-styled: Fig. 3. *L. ovalifolium*, long-styled: Fig. 4. *L. lanceolatum*, short-styled: Fig. 5. *L. alatum*, long-styled (C_1 the ventral, C_2 the lateral, C_3 the dorsal view, C_4 the longitudinal section): Fig. 6. *L. Californicum*, long-styled: Fig. 7. *L. Vulneraria*, short-styled (C_2 the longitudinal section, the calyx with dehiscing fruit).

Notes upon the Botany of the New Orleans Exposition.

BY CHARLES E. BESSEY.

The great Exposition at New Orleans has brought together a mass of material illustrating on a scale never before equalled the natural products, both vegetable and animal, of the United States and the countries adjoining. In all this there is much to interest and instruct the student of plants, and it will well repay our younger botanists to give this portion of the Exposition a week or two of observation. It is impossible, and indeed it is not advisable, to discuss fully the botany of the Exposition, but a few running notes may be of use to those who intend to visit New Orleans, at the same time serving as a summary record of the botanical results of this labor of the people.

In the government building many of the States have exhibits of botanical specimens, evidently extracted from the herbaria of colleges or of private individuals. With but few exceptions these are of such meagre proportions, and were selected with so little care, that they possess very little interest to the scientific student. In a few cases they were selected to illustrate the forest trees, or the grasses, which they fairly represent; but the wretched way in which they are shown, tacked to the walls, and entirely unprotectod from dust and injury from handling, detracts much from the pleasure one might otherwise have felt in examining them. And the labeling! who can do justice to it? Spelling, capitalization, and accuracy of identification are equally disregarded in some of the collections, even in some of those bearing college and university labels!

It is a pleasure to pass from the foregoing to what is without question the most interesting collection of herbarium specimens in the government building, viz., that of California—the work of the well-known botanist J. G. Lemmon. A thousand or more finely prepared specimens are mounted upon bristol-board, and each is enclosed in a light glass frame, the latter being arranged upon inclined frames, where they can be easily examined, or, if necessary, removed for closer study. The ferns of the Pacific coast constitute a striking feature of this collection.

There are many fine specimens of the woods of the northern, southern and western trees. Quite naturally these are pretty nearly confined to the trees of economic value; still one who is interested in the trees of the country can study with profit the wood of nearly every tree growing within the limits of the United States. The Southern States have excelled in this, having sent great truncheons often of the dimensions of logs. The only drawback to these wood collections is that of defective, not to say illiterate labeling, which is far too common.

The Department of Agriculture exhibits a large collection of colored drawings of the Fungi, the work of Dr. Thomas Taylor. While some of these are open to criticism, the collection as a whole is a very valuable one, and it is to be hoped that the department will provide for their early publication, accompanied by appropriate text furnished by some one of our specialists in the study of the Fungi.

Horticultural Hall is disappointing. There is not that variety of fruits which a visitor from the north might expect. Still the genus *Citrus* is well represented, and many a botanist from the Northern States will find it very instructive to spend some time in studying the many variations in the species of this genus. The collection of Cacti includes some striking plants, among which are half a dozen large Mexican specimens of *Cereus giganteus*, from a foot to eighteen inches in thickness, and from ten to fifteen or more feet in height. A dozen or more enormous plants of *Agave Americana*, from Mexico, have been hollowed out so as to show the secretion of juice which when fermented yields a favorite drink of the Mexicans.

In the main building there is little to attract the botanical student until he reaches the Mexican exhibit, which contains a collection of woods (not yet fully labeled) and a fine collection of seeds of economic interest. Some of the West Indian countries have similar collections of more or less value.

The exhibit made by Jamaica is well worth studying, and is full of interesting things. Thus may be mentioned fruits of *Anona*, *Persea*, *Myristica*, *Psidium*, *Achras*, and many others; woods of *Guaiacum*, *Cassia*, *Hæmatoxylon*, *Crescentia*, *Cinnamomum*, Rosewood (*Dalbergia*), Cedar (*Cedrella*), Satinwood (*Chloroxylon*), Lace-bark (*Lagetta*), Fiddle-wood, Bully-tree, Logwood, Braziletto, etc., etc. A collection of twenty-five economic products of the Cocoanut Palm gives one a little idea of the great value of this one tree to the inhabitants of the warm regions. The varieties of Coffee, Pimento, Cacao or Chocolate are well worthy of the attention of the botanist, as are also the large collections of fruits and seeds yielding spices and condiments, the collection of meals and starches, vegetable oils, dye-woods, medicinal products, and fibres.

GENERAL NOTES.

Notes on Forest Trees.—A careful perusal of Vol. IX of the Census Reports, devoted to a consideration of the forest trees of North America, has suggested the following notes upon the occurrence and distribution of some species. It is not intended to criticise that excellent report, but merely to give additional information upon the distribution and occurrence of forest trees in Arkansas, and to enumerate some species found in this State not mentioned in former notes.

Magnolia grandiflora probably is not indigenous to Arkansas. *Zanthoxylum Clova-Herculis* is common in low ground north of the Arkansas river in Arkansas. *Ptelea trifolia* was not included in former lists, as it is a shrub in this State, though quite common. *Ilex cassine* has not been mentioned in former lists by the writer, though credited to South Arkansas in the Census Report. It occurs in the mountains about Hot Springs, and is found on the tufa ledge deposited by the hot water. *Æsculus glabra* occurs as far south-west as the valley of the Red River in Arkansas. *Rhus venenata*, credited to South Arkansas in Census